

```
<!-- /* Font Definitions */ @font-face {font-family:Verdana; panose-1:2 11 6 4 3 5 4 4 2 4;
mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:swiss; mso-font-pitch:variable;
mso-font-signature:536871559 0 0 0 415 0;} /* Style Definitions */ p.MsoNormal,
li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-parent:""; margin:0in; margin-bottom:.0001pt;
mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman";
mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";} p {mso-margin-top-alt:auto; margin-right:0in;
mso-margin-bottom-alt:auto; margin-left:0in; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt;
font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";} @page
Section1 {size:8.5in 11.0in; margin:1.0in 1.25in 1.0in 1.25in; mso-header-margin:.5in;
mso-footer-margin:.5in; mso-paper-source:0;} div.Section1 {page:Section1;} -->
```

Remembering 40 years ago, you [Representative Tonko] and I are old enough to remember when tens of millions of Americans joined together in what was at the time a very visionary day, Earth Day, where Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, drawing from Wisconsin's own Aldo Leopold, who had developed an ethic of the land, and he said, "Earth Day is a dramatic evidence of a broad new national concern that cuts across generations and ideologies. Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty. The object is an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for other human beings and living creatures."

It was really very visionary. But what resulted from that were specific bills, solid legislation, these bills that have moved the country along. So it is not just soft-headed, warm-hearted embracing of the wilderness. It was scientific engineering expertise brought to cleaning up the land and the water. And since Earth Day in 1970, laws have been passed such as the National Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, to mention a few. And Earth Day is no longer just a day. This ethic has been taken to heart, and we continue to move along with the solid science-based efforts to preserve our environment.

Now certainly the number one insult to planet Earth is the way we produce and use energy. My friend from New York has been talking about not only the costs, the costs facing us, which are in dollars and lives, if we do not confront the problems created by the way we produce and use energy. It's not just an average rise in temperature where spring might come a little bit earlier; it is not just that sea level might be up a few inches or a few feet. It is that tropical diseases will appear where they haven't appeared before. We see that happening now. It is not just that we lose the scenery of glaciers in the mountains, we actually lose groundwater; we lose habitat for those things that we depend on for our well-being. So we need comprehensive energy reform to stop using dirty fuels.

It is fortunate that the efforts to deal with the dirty fuels could also relieve our trade imbalance, could also contribute to our national security by making us less dependent on foreign sources of fossil fuels, and in fact it could not only save us money; it could make us money.

As my friend points out, the way we are producing and using energy not only costs lives and dollars through the climate change but it exacerbates our security problems. And by addressing the energy problems, we will indeed increase our national security, saving lives. And if we really make a commitment to investing in reliable energy solutions for the United States, the United States, the historic leader in innovation in the world, the country whose economy has been built on invention and innovation, can lead the world and benefit economically big time through addressing these energy problems, through new clean, sustainable energy, starting first with the low-hanging fruit of efficiency, of wind and geothermal and other readily available sources; moving on to things, some of which are not yet developed but with the American powers of innovation, we can master these things and sell them to the rest of the world.

So the advantages in addressing the energy problem are not just in avoiding catastrophe, it is really to have a positive economic and social future. Waste is never good economics and the United States' attitude toward energy is really profligate. So there is a lot of low-hanging fruit to be gained and money to be saved that way, and then a lot of money to be earned through innovative solutions to the problems.